

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5819
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PFOR SF
SUBJ: VORSTER REITERATES SUPPORT FOR CURRENT POLICIES

1. SUMMARY: SPEAKING IN THE SENATE ON MARCH 10, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER REJECTED AN OPPOSITION MOTION FOR A CONFERENCE OF ALL RACIAL GROUPS TO DISCUSS A NEW CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT FOR SOUTH AFRICA. VORSTER ASSERTED THAT SAG WAS ALREADY DOING ENOUGH TO MEET WITH LEADERS OF OTHER RACIAL GROUPS, AND REITERATED HIS FIRM OPPOSITION TO POWER SHARING. USING THE OCCASION TO DEFEND HOMELANDS POLICY, HE LIKENED SELF-GOVERNING HOMELANDS WHICH REFUSE INDEPENDENCE TO GUAM AND PUERTO RICO. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SPOKE IN THE SENATE MARCH 10 TO REPLY TO A MOTION INTRODUCED BY SENATOR J.L. HORAK (UP) "THAT THIS HOUSE REQUESTS THE PRIME MINISTER TO CONVENE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE A CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE CONSTITUENT ELEMENTS OF OUR PLURAL SOCIETY, TO CONSULT UPON THE MEASURES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE
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A CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE FOR THE REPUBLIC BY WHICH THE LEGITIMATE POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS OF ALL SECTIONS OF OUR POPULATION MAY BE REALIZED."

3. VORSTER REJECTED THE MOTION AS BOTH UNDESIRABLE AND UNNECESSARY. SPECIAL CONFERENCE TO CONSULT WITH NON-WHITE LEADERS NOT NECESSARY SINCE CONSULTATION

ALREADY OCCURRING ON WIDER SCALE THAN UNDER ANY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. PM SAID CABINET COUNCIL PROVIDED COLOREDS AND INDIANS OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT AT HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL AND MAKE WORTHWHILE INPUT AT POLICY FORMULATION STAGE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MAJORITY PARTY IN COLORED REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL HAD REJECTED CABINET COUNCIL, BUT SAID THIS WAS THEIR DECISION, NOT HIS, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATION EXISTED IF THEY WISHED TO USE IT. IN REGARD TO BLACKS, HE MAINTAINED THAT HE MET OFTEN WITH THEIR TRUE REPRESENTATIVES, THE HOMELAND LEADERS. IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MEET WITH URBAN BLACKS SINCE THIS GROUP HAS NO LEADERS AND "IT WOULD BE AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK TO APPOINT LEADERS SPREAD OVER THE CITIES AND TOWNS OF SOUTH AFRICA."

4. IN DEFENSE OF HOMELANDS POLICY, VORSTER SAID IT WAS NOT LAND, BUT PEOPLE WHO WERE BECOMING INDEPENDENT. IT IS THEREFORE WRONG TO SEE URBAN BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA AS A SEPARATE ENTITY. VORSTER DENIED THAT IT WAS AN ABSURDITY TO HAVE HOMELANDS WHICH CHOSE SELF-GOVERNMENT BUT NOT INDEPENDENCE; HE LIKENED THEIR STATUS TO THAT OF GUAM AND PUERTO RICO. PM ALSO SUGGESTED IN PASSING THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG SHOULD VISIT THOSE TWO AREAS.

5. ANY SUGGESTION THAT SOUTH AFRICAN NON-WHITES SHOULD HAVE VOTING RIGHTS WAS REJECTED OUT OF HAND. GIVING COLOREDS THE VOTE IS NOT RIGHT, SINCE IT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPOSED ONLY BY THOSE WHO WANT TO PLOUGH UNDER AND DOMINATE THE AFRIKANER IN THE SAME WAY AS DID THE COLONIALISTS OF THE PREVIOUS CENTURY. AS FOR THE BLACKS, INDEPENDENT OR NOT, THEY WILL NEVER BE REPRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT AS LONG AS NATIONAL PARTY REMAINS IN POWER. AFTER ALL, VORSTER ASKED, IF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS WERE GIVEN THE VOTE, HOW COULD IT THEN BE DENIED TO PEOPLE FROM BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND WHO WERE BORN AND HAVE LIVED FOR GENERATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA?

6. IN REPLY TO OPPOSITION STATEMENT THAT HE SUPPORTED MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, VORSTER DENIED EMPHATICALLY HAVING EVER SUPPORTED MAJORITY RULE. VORSTER SAID HE HAD MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND VERY FEW PRIVATE ONES ON WHAT ULTIMATE RHODESIAN SOLUTION SHOULD BE, SINCE THIS SHOULD BE DECIDED BY RHODESIANS.

7. COMMENT. A REITERATION OF ALREADY WELL-KNOWN POSITIONS, VORSTER MARCH 10 STATEMENT WAS SECOND

HARD-LINE DEFENSE OF SAG POLICY HE HAS MADE TO
PARLIAMENT THIS SESSION, THE FIRST BEING ON JAN. 21
IN THE NO-CONFIDENCE DEBATE (CAPE TOWN 0135).BOWDLER

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